

# Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

June 2, 2015 – 7 pm Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. He read the notice satisfying the Open Public Meeting Act. All stood for the pledge of allegiance. All were reminded to turn off their cell phones or put them in silent mode.

Members Present: Jerry Bowers, Henry Gore (arrived 8:30), Ted Harwick, Chairman Michael Keady, Dwight Pederson, Richard Schrack, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Robert Thurgarland and Township Committee Liaison Ray Krov

Township Committee Alternate Liaison Present: Tom Scheibener

Guest: Christopher Fletcher (interested in helping us) and Brittany Wieder (Independent Consultant for the ANJEC Trail Grant project)(arrived 8:08 pm).

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: After reading the minutes, a motion was made by Jerry Bowers and seconded by Richard Schrack to approve the minutes of April 1, 2015 and May 6, 2015. Motion carried.

Proposed Penn East Natural Gas Line through Holland Township – Update of the Pipeline Subcommittee (Dan Bush, Larry LaFevre, Mike Keady and Ken Vogel). Chairman Keady stated that there is nothing new to report. He also reported that the Highlands Council staff cannot do anything until the DEP permit is requested. The Highlands Council staff is involved in conference calls regarding the pipeline so they are in the loop. Holland Township presented our Environmental Resource Inventory at the Scoping meeting which was held in February at the Grand Colonial. An outside company is to do an ERI for the pipeline. Mayor Krov gave a three minute presentation at the Scoping meeting as follows::

Remarks by Ray Krov  
Mayor Holland Township New Jersey  
FERC Scoping Hearing, Hampton NJ  
February 26, 2015

Good evening. My name is Ray Krov, and I'm the Mayor of Holland Township, New Jersey.

The Holland Township Committee adopted a resolution on October 21, 2014, opposing the PennEast pipeline. We have filed that resolution as a comment on the FERC website, but I'm also submitting a copy tonight.

Much of the content of that resolution was based on information from the Highlands Environmental Resource Inventory (or ERI) for Holland.

We boiled down the information in the Highlands ERI to a few paragraphs in our resolution, so my purpose for being here tonight is to give you as part of my testimony the full text of the Highlands ERI along with the maps that accompany the document.

Holland Township is voluntarily conforming the entire township to the Highlands Regional Master Plan. As part of the conformance process, the experts at the Highlands Council developed the ERI, and it was adopted by our Township Committee in November 2013 as an element of our Holland Master Plan.

So if the purpose of this Scoping Hearing is to obtain accurate and current information on all environmental resources in Holland Township, the Highlands ERI is the place to look.

The purpose of the Highlands Act was to protect the water resources in the Highlands, which provide drinking water to half the people in New Jersey.

Technically, one could say that the PennEast pipeline will only cross three stream systems in Holland, referred to as HUC-14s. But streams don't run in straight lines. They curve and meander. There isn't just one main stream, but lots of tributaries. The Holland

Township Environmental Commission has done maps that super-impose the pipeline route on the maps from the ERI. They show that the pipeline crosses the three HUC-14 streams at 23 places.

That's 23 opportunities to damage those stream systems. Trenching across the stream bed will produce silt that can smother trout eggs. Those C-1 trout-breeding streams have a 300 foot buffer on each side. Construction will cut down vegetation in those buffers that will increase run-off and allow pollutants in stormwater to enter the streams. Losing shade will heat the water and negatively impact trout, which require cold water. Construction equipment will compact the soil and provide contaminants that could enter the streams.

Each crossing may do a bit of damage. But we're talking 23 stream crossings in Holland alone. More in other communities on the route. I cannot conceive how this won't result in **cumulative** damage to C-1 streams where NJDEP rules require "no measureable change" to protect those waterbodies.

And in Holland, all of those streams ultimately flow into the Delaware River, the source of drinking water for major cities to our south.

The ERI shows lots of other issues that will be encountered along the eight mile pipeline route in Holland; including carbonate rock areas, critical habitat, severely constrained slopes, and forest resource areas. The information is all in the documents I am giving you tonight. The only conclusion I can come to is that the No Build Option is the only viable way to protect our community's precious resources.

Thank you.

Chairman Keady gave a three minute presentation and his comments are as follows:

Remarks by Michael Keady  
Chairman, Holland Township Environmental Commission  
FERC Scoping Hearing, Hampton NJ  
February 26, 2015

Good evening. My name is Michael Keady, and I'm the Chairman of the Holland Township Environmental Commission.

As Holland Mayor Ray Krov said earlier, our Environmental Commission did a project that super-imposed the route of the PennEast pipeline over many of the maps from the Highlands Environmental Resource Inventory - or ERI. Tonight as part of my testimony I'm giving you copies of those maps, as well as a CD with the files.

These maps use the Highlands resource maps, but the background is a block and lot map of Holland, and the pipeline route is overlaid. That makes it easier for the average resident to see the pipeline route in relationship to where they live, and how the PennEast pipeline endangers the resources we are trying to protect in our community.

Holland Township is the only Highlands municipality on the pipeline route that has chosen to conform the entire township to the Highlands Regional Master Plan - or RMP. That means we have very credible information on environmental resources in our entire municipality, information that has been developed in partnership with the technical experts on the Highlands Council staff.

Holland has been actively working on conforming to the Highlands RMP for more than six years. The state has given hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to fund this work. Local volunteers have done hundreds of hours of work. The citizens of Holland have sacrificed by moving to much larger lot zoning in order to ensure adequate nitrate dilution from septic systems.

And now PennEast comes in and feels that they can slash their way through resources we have worked so hard to protect in cooperation with the Highlands Council. Mayor Krov focused on the 23 stream crossings as the most worrisome cumulative damage. But there are a host of other intrusions upon Highlands's resources.

One ERI map shows carbonate rock areas, and the pipeline crosses two such areas. The Highlands Council ERI text even says these areas can be dangerous for natural gas pipelines.

The ERI recommends not building on Severely Constrained Slopes, more than 20%. The pipeline intrudes into multiple slopes over 20%. Runoff of silt from these slopes will provide another **cumulative** damage to our streams.

The pipeline cuts through High Integrity Forest areas in several places, leading to fragmentation of the forest, the spread of invasive.

The pipeline goes through Groundwater Recharge Areas, where compacting from construction equipment can lead to less recharge. This in a township identified as having a water shortage.

The vast majority of the pipeline route intrudes upon Critical Habitat mapped in the Highlands ERI.

We have given you the best information we have, and now we expect the Environmental Impact Statement to demonstrate how the damage can be eliminated. Personally, I don't think it can, and the No Build option is the only way not to destroy what we have worked so hard to protect.

Thank you.

A few weeks ago, someone was looking on the FERC website for the material we submitted including Holland Township's Agricultural Chairman Larry LaFevre's statements regarding historical information and nothing could be found. Attorney Cushing is sending a note asking what is going on.

Highlands Council Meeting regarding COAH and the Supreme Court decision of March 10, 2015. The Highlands Council is working on grants to help the 49 municipalities with approved plan conformance petitions. These grants would help municipalities update the original Mod 2 and help identify vacant land adjustments. The towns will have to update their housing element and fair share plan. This would mean we would have to figure out how to address the discrepancies. The Highlands Council is not taking a political stance but is considering supporting a proposition that one judge would be designated to hear all Declarative Judgments (DJ). A water plan is needed towns need to start working on that plan. Basically the courts are to take over the affordable housing plan which takes away control from the Council on Affordable Housing. Planner McKenzie submitted a memo to the Township Committee dated April 10, 2015 entitled "Impact of March 10, 2015, Supreme Court Decision on Holland Township and Proposed Course of Action". The Highlands Council meeting was encouraging. The Highlands Council is cooperative and willing to help towns with grants. More information to follow.

#### Sub-Committees:

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Ted Harwick and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as Secretary Kozak.

Secretary Kozak – the next activity is community day in September. Nothing really new to update.

Trails – Ted Harwick (chair), Robert Thurgarland and Richard Schrack. ANJEC Grant deadline was April 1, 2015. ANJEC Grant and DEP NJ Recreational Trails Program grant have been filed. The ANJEC grant was approved. We are awarded \$1480.00. We are still waiting for word about the DEP NJ Recreational Trails Program grant.

Brittany Wieder (arrived 8:08 pm) – intern for the trails project funded by the ANJEC grant. Jerry Bowers forwarded her resume for all to view.

### **Brittany Wieder**

EDUCATION     A.S. Ecotourism  
Warren County Community College  
GPA: 3.65/4.0  
Graduated June 2012

B.S. Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Management  
Paul Smith's College  
GPA: 3.29/4.0  
Graduated May 2014

ATTRIBUTES     Team Player     Creative     Responsible  
Friendly     Cooperative

EXPERIENCE     Sales Associate, Super One Liquor Store.

505 Ellis Ave, Ashland, WI 54806

December 2014 - March 2015

·assist customers to find their desired product, run cash register

Seasonal Educator. State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Parks and Forestry, Waterloo Village.

525 Waterloo Rd, Stanhope, NJ 07874

June 2014 – October 2014

·coordinate and facilitate elementary and scout education programs, assist visitors, historical site maintenance, office assistant, arts and crafts, campground assistance

Trail Crew. Paul Smith's College Visitor Interpretive Center.

8023 New York 30, Paul Smiths, NY 12970

September 2012 – May 2014

·coordinate and facilitate elementary education programs, assist visitors, trail maintenance

Toll Collector. Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission.

1400 Cedarville Rd #1, Easton, PA 18042

March 2012 – January 2014

·work booth; assisting drivers with directions and local information

Volunteer work with Girl Scouts, college programs, and Musconetcong River Watershed Association

·planting trees, removing trash from wild areas, maintaining trails, and summer day camp

REFERENCES:

Brian McDonnell

Andrea Proctor

Paul Smiths College VIC

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(518) 327-6241

Waterloo Village

waterlooris@gmail.com

(862) 266-3979

After some discussion, all welcomed Brittany Wieder. Jerry Bowers worked with Secretary Kozak on wording to create a requisition but CFO Rees said a resolution was the first step. The resolution is for the Township Committee to approve and was submitted as follows:

**RESOLUTION**

Authorization to hire Brittany Wieder as an Independent Consultant

**WHEREAS**, The Township Committee of the Township of Holland presently requires the services of an Independent Consultant who will undertake fieldwork under the subject grant (value \$1482.00) from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions—ANJEC. And

**WHEREAS**, there are sufficient funds available in the General Operations Municipal Budget as present to pay for this employee, and

**WHEREAS**, this employee will be hired as an Independent Consultant, and

**WHEREAS**, this Independent Consultant will not be eligible for participation in the New Jersey Public Employment Retirement System, the NJ Health Benefits; paid holidays, paid sick leave or paid vacation time, and

**WHEREAS**, this Independent Consultant will

1. Review Township records to identify, by Block & Lot number, all Open and Preserved Spaces owned wholly or partly by Holland Township
2. Review Township records to identify, by Block & Lot number, all conservation easements in the Township
3. Visit all properties shown above to familiarize herself with their location, physical characteristics and access issues, if any

4. Identify, on all Open and Preserved Spaces owned or partly owned by the Township, optimum routing for eventual trails and/or paths into and through those holdings
5. Mark, with trail marking tape, proposed trails and/or pathways into and through those holdings
6. Plot, on a master map, all such proposed trails/paths, and the easements noted above.
7. Develop a report to the Environmental Commission (EC) proposing the next steps needed to develop the trails and paths identified in the course of her work

**WHEREAS**, based on the above, the Independent Consultant will deliver

1. Map, showing all Open and Preserved Spaces owned and/or partly owned by Holland Township (including Block & Lot nos.), and overlaid thereon the consultant's recommended trails and/or paths into and through those properties
2. A brief report to the Holland Township EC describing next steps needed to develop the trails/pathways noted on the aforementioned map

**WHEREAS**, this Independent Consultant will be under the supervision of the Holland Township Environmental Commission; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee, Township of Holland, County of Hunterdon in the State of New Jersey, that Brittany Wieder will be hired as an Independent Consultant who will undertake fieldwork under the subject grant (value \$1482.00) from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions—ANJEC effective June 3, 2015

Brittany Wieder is not as well versed in GIS mapping and Rick Schrack offered to help with that part of this project. Secretary Kozak forwarded the easement file to Jerry Bowers. The Holland Park group also is looking at the DEP grant with the focus on a parking lot as part of the master plan. All groups are to work together.

Christopher Fletcher and Brittany Wieder exchanged information as Christopher Fletcher is interested in helping the Environmental Commission with a project.

Web Page – Jerry Bowers, Dwight Pederson, and Rick Schrack –The new web design company is working on creating the new website. The Ridge is being worked on first. More information to follow.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers (chair), Mike Keady and Henry Gore. Chairman has been working on the new version of the Highlands Land Use Ordinance with the planner. He has additional questions for Keri Bencoter. An update will follow. The Zoning Map update was also discussed with Maser Consulting having presented a quote on how much it will cost to perform the required task. The goal is to have the revised zoning map with the Land Use Ordinance both being adopted at the same time. Chairman Keady will make sure we own the maps and electronic media. Jerry Bowers and Tom Scheibener will also review the proposal. There is a question of updating the existing zoning map which would cost the township money to perform this task but should be under \$500.00. Secretary Kozak reminded everyone that it has been a long time since the maps was updated.

Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan Sub-Committee – Henry Gore, Robert Thurgarland, Dwight Pederson and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary. Secretary Kozak will follow up with Consultant Farr. A motion was made by Ted Harwick and seconded by Jerry Bowers to have the subcommittee move forward, have the mayor resign the amended document and resubmit to the DEP. All present were in favor. Motion carried.

EPA Proposal to Clean-up the Milford Mill Site – Henry Gore attended a recent meeting. He attends the informal meetings on a quarterly basis. The bigger meeting was to present a proposal for necessary clean up. All the activity done so far was reviewed with the information being on file in the Milford Public Library. The Site with the solvents is close to the water but it has been rehabilitated. They want to do something with the soils with the solvents. It would take three years to fix the situation. Henry Gore tried to get the pipeline issue into the EPA pertaining to Arsenic issues and how the situation could get worse. Other people attending the meeting expressed concerns with the appearance of the building, The EPA said they can do demolition but that is up to the property owner. The contaminated spot is where the creek comes up the road on the north side of the mill or behind Del Val Family Health Center. The potential demolition site is not contaminated and is composed of construction grade material with no Hazmat. Another discussion took place about demolition

taking place on site where everything would fall into the basement and stay there. Additional discussions took place about trails, making this a superfund site, bro field redevelopment projects with the mills and how the Hughesville Mill is on the Musconetcong River which is west of Cyphers and has wetland issues and is zoned industrial. This also got into a discussion of the 12' dam between Hueghsville and Fibermark on the Musconetcong.

Public Comment: No comments.

At 8:55 Jerry Bowers made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

*Maria Elena Jennette Kozak*

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

Environmental Commission Secretary